

Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin, Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, announces the selection of the Wright Building to receive a 2009 Massachusetts Historical Commission Historic Preservation Award.

"The Massachusetts Historical Commission is proud to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of this year's awardees," said Secretary Galvin. "The projects the Commission is recognizing this year are particularly diverse and represent the many creative ways significant historic resources are being preserved across the Commonwealth. I commend the town of Duxbury and the Duxbury Rural and Historic Society for this sensitive and effective adaptive reuse project."

Built in 1909 and named after Georgina Wright, who funded its construction, the Wright Building served as the Duxbury Free Library until 1997. Designed in the Classical Revival style by noted architect Joseph Everett Chandler, the building received a modern addition in 1968. The property was vacant from 1997 to 2005, at which time the Duxbury Board of Selectmen agreed to renovate and restore the building and allow the Duxbury Rural and Historic Society to use the original portion. Utilizing historic documents and well-preserved photos, the project involved restoration work on both the interior and exterior. The exterior brick was repointed, and windows were restored or replaced. A most impressive aspect of the project was the careful treatment of the fireplace surround in the reading room, including restoration of its gilding, clock, and original color scheme. The 1909 portion of the building now houses a town archive, and the town has converted the 1960s addition into a youth center for students in grades six through 12. The Wright Building is individually listed in the Nation-

al Register of Historic Places.

This is the 31st year of MHC's Preservation Awards program. Projects are considered annually for awards in the categories of Rehabilitation and Restoration, Adaptive Reuse, Education and Outreach, Archaeology, and Landscape Preservation. Individuals are considered in the categories of Individual Lifetime Achievement and Local Preservationist. Secretary Galvin serves as the chair of the 17-member Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Secretary Galvin will present the awards at an afternoon ceremony on Tuesday, Oct. 27, at the Massachusetts Archives Building at 220 Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester. The Wright Building adaptive reuse and restoration project is one of 10 projects to be honored.



The Massachusetts Historical Commission is the office of the State Historic Preservation Officer and the State Ar-

chaeologist. It was established in 1963 to identify, evaluate, and protect important historical and archaeological assets

of the Commonwealth. Visit our website to learn more about the Commission's programs (sec.state.ma.us/mhc).

State honors historic Wright Building

Duxbury Clipper

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Buildings